



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer James-Mesloh
Email: Jennifer_James-Mesloh@doh.state.fl.us
Phone: (239) 332-9561 - office
Phone: (850) 519-5728 - cell

Lee County Resident Dies of H1N1 (Swine Flu) **-Fourth H1N1 death in the county-**

Fort Myers, FL— The Lee County Health Department has received notification of its fourth H1N1 (Swine) Flu-related death in a 30 year old female resident. The Cape Coral resident had been hospitalized prior to her death and she did not have any medical conditions that put her at greater risk of complications from flu.

“We offer our sincere condolences to this woman’s family and friends for their loss” said Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., Director of the Lee County Health Department.

H1N1 can lead to severe sickness, and even death in some cases. Even young, healthy people can suffer serious consequences when infected. As of October 14, 112 deaths have been reported in Florida, and 20 of them were under the age of 24, most with no underlying medical conditions.

“While most cases of H1N1 Swine Flu are mild, there are exceptions. This is why the Lee County Health Department urges our community to get vaccinations against H1N1, a virus to which we have no immunity” said Hartner.

To combat the spread of H1N1, the Lee County Health Department is embarking on an unprecedented campaign to offer vaccine to our entire community in an effort to keep families healthy. These vaccinations are VOLUNTARY and FREE, but we feel they are necessary to keep our community safe.

The Lee County Health Department plans to begin H1N1 free vaccination clinics later this month at 12 area high schools throughout the county. EVERYONE should eventually be vaccinated, but those in high risk categories will be given the first supplies of the vaccine. They include:

- Children and young adults age 6 months through 24 years
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months old
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel
- People age 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

For more information on influenza activity there are a number of resources available such as the Florida Department of Health toll-free number which provides public health information and updates on H1N1



Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H. • Director
3920 Michigan Avenue • Fort Myers, FL • 33916
www.leegov.com/healthdept



Swine flu. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT, seven days a week. Information is available in English, Spanish and Creole. The Florida Flu Information Line is 1-877-352-3581.

For web-based information please visit any of the following websites:

Lee County Health Department, www.leechd.com

Florida Department of Health, <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/php/FluInfo.htm>

Flu.gov, <http://www.flu.gov>

- **Media Note:** To safeguard patient privacy, the Lee County Health Department does not report on the clinical details of individual cases. All patient information reported to the Lee County Health Department is pursuant to Section 381.0031 F.S. and are considered confidential medical records that are exempt from the public records law.

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